Standardisation of bottled water

3624. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to insist on ISI or any other standardization for bottled water;

(b) if so, the nature of standards prescribed for the purpose; and

(c) the agency to check its compliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare *vide* their Gazette Notifications No. GSR 759 (E) and GSR 760(E) have already brought Packaged Drinking Water and Packaged Natural Mineral Water under the Mandatory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards.

(b) The Nature of the standards prescribed are as per the specifications outlined in the IS 14543:1998 for Packaged Drinking Water and IS:13428:1998 for Natural Packaged Drinking Water.

(c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the enforcement/ implementing authority under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules. Bureau of Indian Standards is the certifying agency for Bottled Water.

Quality control on mineral water manufacturing units

3625. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cancellation of license of the mineral water manufacturing units after detection of pesticides in bottled mineral water is the only logical action;

(b) if not, what other action Government intend to take against such companies;

(c) whether these companies are running several bottling plants in other parts of the country also; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to check quality of water from their other units as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No BIS licence has been cancelled so far due to the presence of pesticide residues in bottled water. Only Stop Marking was imposed on some manufacturers of Packaged Drinking Water/Natural Mineral Water after observing deviations from the specifications prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards. Stop Marking instructions are issued in case of unsatisfactory performance/failure of samples. The stop marking does not mean the cancellation of the licence. Under the stop marking, the manufacturer is not allowed to put the BIS mark on their product till the corrective actions are taken by the manufacturers which are duly verified by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

(c) and (d) Some manufacturers may have more than one manufacturing plant in other parts of the country. Each such plant constitutes a separate licensee. Monitoring of performance of individual licence is done separately as per the Scheme of Testing and Inspection irrespective of the performance of its sister units operating in other parts of the country.

Functioning of Consumer Fora

3626. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the National Consumer Forum and the fora in the States are not functioning efficiently due to the lack of facilities including ministerial staff;

(b) how many cases have been filed and disposed of by both the National and States Consumer Fora during the last three years; and

(c) what facilities are planned to be provided to make them efficient and what budgetary support would be required for the purpose?